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The situation in the Middle East

Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Promotion and protection of human rights

Identical letters dated 10 October 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to draw your attention to the following information regarding the unjust Israeli judgements that have been handed down against the Syrian prisoner Sidqi al-Miqt.

On Tuesday, 9 October 2018, the so-called Supreme Court of the occupying Israeli authorities handed down an unjust decision upholding the 11-year prison sentence that the Galilee court had given to the activist prisoner Sidqi al-Miqt, a son of Majdal Shams in the occupied Syrian Golan and the most senior of Syrian and Arab prisoners held in the prisons of the occupiers. The occupying Israeli forces rearrested the activist Al-Miqt on 25 February 2015 after having imprisoned him for more than 27 years, which he spent in the depths of the occupiers' prisons without any legal or moral justification. This new unjust judgment was handed down because he had shown that the Israeli occupying authorities were providing all forms of support, including arms, money and medical services, to armed terrorist groups, in particular the Nusrah Front and other associated terrorist organizations, that are active in the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic.

The Syrian Arab Republic strongly condemns and denounces the unjust judgement that was handed by the racist Israeli courts against prisoner Sidqi al-Miqt. It considers that judgement to be void and illegal because it was handed down by the occupying Power against a civilian national of Syria who is living under the rule of a foreign occupier in a part of his own country, namely, the occupied Syrian Golan. That judgement is yet another legal outrage in the series of crimes committed by the occupying Israeli authorities that must be added to the shameful register of "Israel", a register that is replete with war crimes and violations of international law, human

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rights and international humanitarian law, as well as of Security Council resolution 497 (1981), under which "Israel" is prohibited from taking punitive measure in the occupied Syrian Golan. The above-mentioned crimes have been occurring since Israel occupied the Golan on 5 June 1967.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic once again calls upon the Secretary-General, the Security Council, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and relevant international bodies that are concerned with human rights and the application of international humanitarian law, including the International Committee of the Red Cross, to compel the Israeli authorities to release prisoner Sidqi al-Miqt immediately and unconditionally, because the unjust Israeli decision blatantly denies Syrians living under Israeli occupation their rights and is contrary to the principle of justice, which is guaranteed by international law everywhere and at all times. The Israeli authorities must also be compelled to release all Syrian Arab Republic nationals who are being held in the occupiers' prisons and detention centres.

Syria renews its call for the relevant provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention and international humanitarian law to be applied in respect of Arab territories, including the Syrian Arab Golan, that are occupied by "Israel". Moreover, Syria rejects the sham trials that are conducted by the occupying Israeli authorities for Syrian prisoners and detainees.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 38, 55 and 74, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative